

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-05 LAB-04 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 NIC-01 OMB-01

ARA-06 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /088 W

----- 101769

R 181723Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6885

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BERN

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 19429

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GW, GE, PO, UR, ICFTU

SUBJECT: DGB OFFICIAL DESCRIBES LABOR SITUATION IN PORTUGAL.

1. SUMMARY. DIETER WAGNER, CURRENTLY ASSIGNED BY THE DGB TO ASSIST THE ICFTU REPRESENTATIVE IN LISBON, DISCUSSED THE PORTUGUESE LABOR SCENE WITH THE EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHE. WAGNER INDICATED THAT THE PORTUGUESE LABOR MOVEMENT IS DOMINATED BY COMMUNISTS BUT CLAIMED THAT ICFTU AND DGB OFFICIALS BELIEVE IT IS STILL POSSIBLE TO STRENGTHEN THE DEMOCRATIC LABOR FORCES IN PORTUGAL. END SUMMARY.

2. IN MAY 1974, SHORTLY AFTER THE COU D'ETAT IN PORTUGAL, THE ICFTU SENT A DELEGATION TO LISBON TO MEET WITH THE INTERSINDICAL. INTERSINDICAL ASKED FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT BUT DID NOT FOLLOW THROUGH WHEN THE ICFTU DELEGATION ASKED THEM TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR A SPECIFIC PROJECT. HOWEVER FOLLOWING THE VISIT OF THE ICFTU DELEGATION, THE GERMAN FEDERATION OF LABOR (DGB) ASSIGNED DIETER WAGNER, ONE OF ITS LATIN AMERICA EXPERTS, TO WORK WITH THE ICFTU REPRESENTATIVE IN PORTUGAL. WAGNER HAS SINCE VISITED PORTUGAL SEVERAL TIMES AND RECENTLY DESCRIBED THE LABOR SITUATION IN PORTUGAL TO THE EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHE:

3. BEFORE THE "REVOLUTION", THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED THE WORKER ASSOCIATIONS (SINDICATOS) THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND USE OF A TRADE UNION TAX SIMILAR TO THE ONE IMPOSED IN SPAIN AND BRAZIL. HOWEVER AFTER THE "REVOLUTION" MOST OF THE PRO-GOVERNMENT LEADERS OF THE SINDICATOS ABANDONED THEIR OFFICES WHICH WERE QUICKLY OCCUPIED BY THE COMMUNISTS WHO TOOK CONTROL INITIALLY OF 12 SINDICATOS IN LISBON. THEY ALSO QUICKLY ORGANIZED THE INTERSINDICAL, A FRONT ORGANIZATION OF COMMUNIST LEADERS OF THESE 12 SINDICATOS. WITH THE INTERSINDICAL FIRMLY UNDER CONTROL, THE COMMUNISTS MOVED TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE OTHER INDIVIDUAL SINDICATOS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO AFFILIATE THEM WITH THE INTERSINDICAL WHILE THEY WERE STILL LEADERLESS DURING THE POST REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD. MOST OF THEIR INITIAL EFFORTS WERE SUCCESSFUL. THE COMMUNISTS THEN MOVED INTO OPORTO IN NORTHERN PORTUGAL. USING SIX SINDICATOS IN OPORTO AS A FOOTHOLD, THE COMMUNISTS BEGAN TAKING OVER THE OFFICES AND LEADERSHIP

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OF THE OTHER SINDICATOS IN THE NORTH. THE TECHNIQUE WAS TO QUICKLY SEIZE CONTROL OF A SINDICATO AND FILL THE LEADERSHIP VACUUM IN AN AREA BY SETTING UP A LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE SINDICATOS DOMINATED BY COMMUNISTS WHICH THEY USED TO CONTROL REORGANIZATION OF OTHER LEADERLESS SINDICATOS STILL IN SHOCK AFTER THE "REVOLUTION".

4. WAGNER FEELS, HOWEVER, THAT THE SITUATION IS NOT HOPELESS. OTHER NON-COMMUNIST LABOR FACTIONS HAVE SLOWLY APPEARED ON THE SCENE IN SOME OF THE LOCAL SINDICATOS. THE QUICK MOVE BY THE COMMUNISTS TO SEIZE THE LEADERSHIP OF THE INTERSINDICAL IN LISBON AND THE NEW INTERSINDICAL IN OPORTO STIMULATED THE NON-COMMUNIST LABOR FACTIONS, INCLUDING THE SMALL SOCIALIST PARTY, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND OTHER FRINGE LABOR FACTIONS, TO COOPERATE IN TRYING TO PREVENT THE COMMUNISTS FROM TAKING OVER THE ENTIRE SINDICATO MOVEMENT. ALSO A GROUP OF TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES INCLUDING ENGINEERS, LAWYERS AND TECHNICIANS, HAVE FORMED A "FREE CONFEDERATION OF LABOR" WHICH THEY FALSELY CLAIM IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ICFTU.

5. THE ICFTU DOES NOT WISH TO BE IDENTIFIED WITH THIS FREE CONFEDERATION OF LABOR BECAUSE IT DOES NOT REPRESENT THE MAIN STREAM OF THE PORTUGUESE LABOR MOVEMENT. BUT THE ICFTU IS COOPERATING WITH A LABOR CULTURAL INSTITUTE IN LISBON WHICH IS CONDUCTING WORKER EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND HELPING TRAIN WORKERS FROM THE VARIOUS NON-COMMUNIST GROUPS TO BECOME FUTURE LEADERS WHO WILL HOPEFULLY COMPETE AGAINST COMMUNIST CANDIDATES IN FUTURE SINDICATO ELECTIONS.

6. COMMENT. THE DGB AND THE FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION WHICH ARE CLOSELY FOLLOWING THE LABOR SITUATION IN PORTUGAL, HAVE INDICATED CONCERN OVER THE LARGE AMOUNT OF SUPPORT THAT THE GDR AND THE SOVIET UNION ARE GIVING

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THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS. END COMMENT.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 18 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 MAR 2002  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DGB OFFICIAL DESCRIBES LABOR SITUATION IN PORTUGAL.  
**TAGS:** ELAB, GE, GC, PO, UR, ICFTU, (WAGNER, DIETER)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005